

Peninsula have forced the Pintail to move west?

The Cochin Unit of FACT deserves the gratitude of all bird lovers and conservationists for the commendable manner in which they are managing the environment generally, and the lake in particular, in order

26/1643 UNNI'S LANE,  
TRIVANDRUM,  
July 6, 1981.

to provide the maximum security to their birds, both resident and migrant. I am personally obliged to Mr Vijaya Sankar, Managing Director, Mr T. Nandakumar and Mr Padmanabhan, Officers, of the FACT Cochin Unit, for their hospitality and help.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

REFERENCE

ALI, SALIM (1969): Birds of Kerala. Oxford University Press, Madras, p. 41.

10. FLAMINGOS BREEDING IN THOL LAKE SANCTUARY NEAR AHMEDABAD

On 21 June 1981, I visited the Thol Lake Sanctuary about 30 km from Ahmedabad along with a party from Doordarshan for making a film programme on Flamingos.

The flamingos were approximately 5000-6000 in number, and other water birds were also seen in large number. The most surprising sight was the presence 70-80 of Flamingo nests. Young ones of the Flamingo were also noticed. As the birds had remained throughout the whole year (May 80-May 81) in this

area, I wondered whether the birds had bred also, and this had lead me to search for their nests. Finally we were successful in locating the nest colony. The nests were 70-80 and in small groups of 5-6 at different places, on the opposite bank of the lake .

The possibility of this area being an additional breeding ground for Flamingos in India, apart from already known breeding ground in Great Rann of Kutch, needs to be placed on record.

17, SWARAJ NAGAR,  
AMBAWADI, ELLISBRIDGE,  
AHMEDABAD - 380 015,  
June 27, 1981.

P. S. THAKKER

11 OCCURRENCE OF CERTAIN WADERS IN SRI LANKA

Recently I had occasion to leaf through Volume 2 of the 2nd Edition of the *HANDBOOK* and a few comments in regard to the occurrence of certain Waders in Sri Lanka seem necessary.

No. 374. Large Sand Plover (*Charadrius*

*leschenaultii*) — Although the distribution map shows Sri Lanka as a wintering place for this species, Sri Lanka is not mentioned in the text. The Large Sand Plover is reported fairly often (see Bird Club Notes).

No. 378. Eastern Ringed Plover — (*Cha-*

*radrius hiaticula tundrae*) — There have recently been several authentic sight records of this species, all recorded in the Bird Club Notes, by Dr T.S.U. de Zylva, myself and one or two others. There can be no doubt about these. 1979 seems to have been a particularly good year for relatively rare Waders.

No. 389. Blacktailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa limosa*) — "... becoming very rare in South India and Ceylon". This has changed during recent years and these birds now come to Sri Lanka by the hundreds every winter. I myself have seen large congregations in northern lagoons prior to the return migration. These observations have been frequently reported in the Bird Club Notes; also in my annual Notes from the Ceylon Bird Club, published in the June issue of 'Loris' each year.

No. 392. Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*) — This bird too is now regularly seen. There are at least one or two reports every year. I think its "rarity" is chiefly due to the difficulty of distinguishing it from the Common Redshank. I saw one in unmistakable

breeding plumage on the east coast on the 16th of April, 1976 (see Bird Club Notes, April 1976, page 18). I then wrote that during that winter I had seen nearly a dozen Spotted Redshanks.

No. 395. Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) — Very large congregations of this Sandpiper have been seen in the salterns of Hambantota.

No. 400. Terek Sandpiper (*Tringa terek*) — This species is not only found on the north-west coast, but all along the coasts, especially also the north-east coast.

No. 413. Eastern Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*) — 4 birds of this species were recently seen near Mannar by Ben King and party (see Notes for May 1981).

No. 420. Dunlin (*Calidris alpina alpina*) — Several Dunlins have been seen in Sri Lanka in recent years by myself and other observers. One was an authentic sighting by me of a bird moulting into breeding plumage at the edge of a lagoon in Yala East on the 10th of April, 1979, (see Bird Club Notes 1979, page 20).

CEYLON BIRD CLUB,  
c/o. P. O. Box 11,  
COLOMBO,  
SRI LANKA,  
June 10, 1981.

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## 12. THE CHESTNUT-HEADED BEE-EATER (*MEROPS LESCENAULTI* VIEILLOT) IN GUJARAT

While accompanying Shri R. Naoroji on an expedition to photograph birds in the Chandod and Rajpipla areas of Gujarat State I sighted a pair of what seemed to be Chestnut-headed Bee-eaters while walking towards Poecha village across the Narmada from Chandod which is about 22°N and 73.5°E. The pair was seen

first flying around some bushes and then alighting on a large rock about 35 feet from me. Looking through 8 x 30 binoculars I clearly noticed the chestnut head (colour reminiscent of crow-pheasant wings) and bright yellow throat under which was a dark and pale chestnut band. Both birds did not have